



**Charting the Course to 2025:  
The County of York Comprehensive Plan Review  
Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee**

**Meeting Notice**

York County Environmental & Development Services Building  
105 Service Drive, Yorktown  
Monday, January 31, 2005  
6:00 PM

**Agenda**

- 1. Call to order**
- 2. Utilities Strategic Capital Plan**

Brian Woodward, York County Chief of Utilities, will be present to brief the Committee on the Utilities Strategic Capital Plan and the water, sewer, and stormwater projects contained therein.

- 3. Other**
- 4. Adjourn**

Attachments

- Meeting Notes of January 24, 2005



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### Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee

#### Meeting Notes

York County Environmental and Development Services Building  
Multi-Purpose Room  
105 Service Drive  
Monday, January 31, 2005  
6:00 PM

**Members Present:** Nick Barba, Ken Bowman, Jack Christie, Jack Davis, Carole Ferro, A. T. Hamilton, Ron Kurz, Rick Moberg, Al Ptasznik

**Staff Present:** Mark Carter, Tim Cross, Amy Parker, Earl Anderson, Brian Woodward

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Chairman Barba called the meeting to order at 6:04 PM.

Brian Woodward, Chief of Utilities for York County, briefed the Committee on the County's *Utility Strategic Capital Plan for Water, Wastewater and Stormwater*, which is adopted by the Board of Supervisors and revised every two years. He stated that the latest revision is scheduled to be presented to the Board for consideration in the next few months. Mr. Woodward explained that the biennial review process gives the staff in the Utilities Division a chance to periodically reassess the existing project priorities as well as the criteria for selecting them and underlying assumptions. Mr. Woodward explained that funding for the County's water and sewer extension projects comes from an Enterprise Fund with revenues generated by an earmarked portion of the County meals tax as well as utility connection fees (from both new customers and developers) and interest on deposits. Funds for stormwater projects also come from a portion of the meals tax, the General Fund, and VDOT/County Revenue Sharing funds. Mr. Carter added that certain stormwater projects are eligible for the Revenue Sharing programs because they involve roadside drainage facilities for which VDOT is responsible.

Mr. Woodward stated that for both water and sewer projects, unserved areas of the County are ranked based on a point system that takes into account a variety of factors such as the presence of septic system problems, fire protection concerns, water quality or quantity problems, proximity to the Chesapeake Bay or its tributaries, the shallowness of the aquifer, proximity to freshwater systems, and growth potential. In response to a question from Chairman Barba, he guessed that approximately 30% to 40% of County households currently do not have sanitary sewer. Mr. Woodward explained that the focus of the utilities plan is on extending water and sanitary sewer to existing development, although utility lines abutting vacant property are sized to accommodate the potential future development on that property based on its zoning. He added that property owners are required to connect to sewer once it is extended to an area but that connection to water is not mandatory; however, owners of abutting property, either developed or vacant, pay a lower connection fee if they connect to the water system within 90 days of notification that water service exists.

Mr. Woodward noted that although the emphasis of the utilities plan is on serving residential development, there have also been projects designed to support economic development; these include the extension of water and sewer to the Lightfoot area and the extension of sanitary sewer to the Economic Development Authority's shell building in the York River Commerce Center.

Mr. Woodward spoke about the increased use of vacuum sewer systems that, unlike conventional systems, do not rely on gravity. He stated that some of the advantages of such systems are that they require fewer pump stations and that the sewer lines can be shallower. In response to a question from Mr. Davis, Mr. Woodward stated that all County pump stations are equipped with or have access to emergency back-up generators.

Mr. Woodward stated that stormwater projects are particularly challenging because they involve multiple environmental regulatory agencies – including the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality and the Army Corps of Engineers – which can lead to project delays. Mr. Kurz expressed concern about the high cost to the homeowners' associations of maintaining their stormwater ponds, particularly in small subdivisions where the cost is spread out over relatively few residents. He wondered about the possibility that sometime in the future the County might take over responsibility for maintaining the ponds and charge the residents a fee for this service. Mr. Woodward responded that the utilities plan does not address this issue and he noted that if that were to happen, the ponds would become public property and would no longer belong exclusively to the homeowners' association. He added that one of the recommendations of the County's Stormwater Advisory Committee is to require developers at the time of property transfer to provide more detailed information to the homeowners' associations to clarify their true responsibilities and the costs associated with maintaining their stormwater ponds. Mr. Ptaszniak stated that he shares Mr. Kurz's concern and he speculated that future legislation might make localities responsible for these ponds. He stressed that he thinks the comprehensive plan should address the possible County ownership and maintenance of stormwater ponds.

In response to a question from Chairman Barba, Mr. Carter stated that the telephone survey is underway and should be completed soon. The consultant will provide the results in late February.

The Committee scheduled its next two meetings for February 22 and February 24.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 PM.

TCC